

# Base partners with city, county for clean air

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Col. Henry L. Andrews Jr., 377th Air Base Wing commander, met in December with Albuquerque's Mayor Martin Chavez to sign a cooperative agreement with the city of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County to curb air pollution.

Also in attendance at the meeting were: James Lewis, city chief of operations; Alfredo Santistevan, Albuquerque Environmental Health Department director; Israel Tavarez and Therese Martinez-Loner from the city's Air Quality Division; Lt. Col. Paula W. Risenhoover, 377th Air Base Wing Judge Advocate's Office; John Polland, Civil Engineer Division Environmental Management Branch chief; and Terry Cooper, Environmental Management Compliance section chief.

The Regional Air Quality Initiative seeks cooperation from nine incorporated communities, eight Native American tribes, three counties and Kirtland AFB. Together, these entities make up Air Quality Control Region 152 and account for one third of New Mexico's population.

According to Therese Martinez-Loner, Albuquerque Environmental Health Department's Air Quality Division community liaison, two of the region's top pollution culprits are wind blown particulate matter and ground-level ozone. Major contributors to these types of pollution are dust, pollen, fireplace smoke, smoke from brush or forest fires, volatile organic compounds from automobile emissions and nitrogen oxide emissions from internal combustion of fossil fuels in engines or power plants.

Combined, these pollutants when elevated can cause a serious health risk for children, the elderly and anyone who suffers from asthma or other chronic lung diseases, said Martinez-Loner.

Colonel Andrews pointed out the main objectives of the Air Quality program at Kirtland AFB is directed toward compliance with all applicable regulations as



Photo by Keith Pederson

**Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez and Col. Henry L. Andrews Jr., 377th Air Base Wing commander, discuss Kirtland AFB's contributions to the city's environmental programs prior to signing a cooperative agreement between Kirtland AFB, the city of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County to curb air pollution.**

well as identifying processes that could reduce or eliminate air emissions while still performing in a manner that supports the mission. He also cited several examples of Kirtland's Air Quality program that have produced positive results.

Mayor Chavez praised Kirtland's efforts especially the base's requirement for all vehicles registered on

base to have a current emission test regardless of where the owner lives.

Colonel Andrews assured the mayor that Kirtland AFB would continue to improve its Air Quality program and constantly look for new ways to reduce pollution as part of our continued commitment to being a good neighbor.